

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A visual restoration aiding device including:

an electrode array having a plurality of electrodes placed on an outside of a choroid of a patient's eye to electrically stimulate cells constituting a retina.

2. The visual restoration aiding device according to claim 1 further including an indifferent electrode having an opposite polarity to that of the electrodes and being placed in the eye at a position facing to the electrodes in a state where the retina lies between the indifferent electrode and the electrodes.

3. The visual restoration aiding device according to claim 1 further including conversion means which converts externally transmitted data for electrical stimulation to an electrical stimulation pulse signal and transmits the signal to the electrode array.

4. The visual restoration aiding device according to claim 1 further including:

photographing means which photographs an object which is to be recognized by a patient;

conversion means which converts photograph data taken by the photographing means into data for electrical stimulation;

transmitting means which transmits the data for electrical stimulation from the conversion means; and

receiving means which receives the data for electrical stimulation transmitted from the transmitting means,

wherein the electrode array is operated to electrically stimulate the

cells based on the data for electrical stimulation received by the receiving means.

5 5. The visual restoration aiding device according to claim 4 further including a battery to be used for electric power supply,

wherein the conversion means converts electric power from the battery into an electric power signal,

the transmitting means transmits the electric power signal from the conversion means, and

10 the receiving means receives the electric power signal from the transmitting means.

15 6. The visual restoration aiding device according to claim 1, wherein the electrodes are placed between the choroid and sclera in the patient's eye.

20 7. The visual restoration aiding device according to claim 1, wherein the electrodes each have a notch shape on a surface of the electrode array to be placed in contact with the choroid.

25 8. The visual restoration aiding device according to claim 1, wherein the electrode array electrically stimulates the cells at a current intensity of 20 μ A to 200 μ A.